

Mothers Day 1968

Text:

As most of you probably know by now, today is Mothers Day. To which I must add, Mothers Day is for the birds. And if we wanted to use another title for this sermon we could entitle it, There are mothers and then there are mothers. Now perhaps some of you may be thinking ~~these~~ ^{THESE ARE} rather harsh words for a day that has been set aside for honoring our mothers. And ~~perhaps it is~~ ^{THEY ARE}. But there are several reasons for my statements which have led me to think of mothers day in this light..

What is the real purpose of Mothers day? Have you ever stopped and asked this question.. Today when you go home, pick up Thursday or Friday nights newspaper, and ^{JUST} count the ads telling you to buy this for mother, or mother needs this, or no mother should be without one of these. Just before Easter the Butler radio station had a commercial which said, "Easter is fast becoming another Christmas. " Christmas is about as commercial as it can get, and Easter is fast becoming just as commercial. This is one reason why I say mothers day is for the birds. Because it is merely another chance for the merchants to fill their pockets at the expense of men, women, and children who will feel cheap or out of step with society if we do not purchase something for mother, as everyone else does. Now I am most certainly ^{NOT} against anyone making a living or earning their livelihood. But the way these holidays are handled by the merchants is a disgrace.. As an example to prove my point, try buying a bouquet of flowers from a greenhouse or florist during the mothers day rush. Then return to that same florist a couple of weeks later and buy that very same bouquet of flowers and compare the prices of the two bouquets.. If I am not too far wrong you will find that the one bought during the mothers day season cost more than the other.. This is not to say that just the flower industry is at fault not by any means.. This applies to jewelry, clothing, and almost everything else. It is not the real sentiment that this day started out with. It is strictly big business

spelled with a capital B.

Mothers day is for the birds because to some individuals it is the only day of the year in which they show any awareness that their mother is alive. If we need a special day each year to make us aware of our duty as sons or daughter, then we are in sad shape indeed. Anyone who loves his or her mother does not need a special day in which to do it. True sons or daughters look after their mother all through the year. Our love and devotion to our mothers should not be dependent upon a date on the calendar. After all, was the love our mothers gave to us dependent upon it being our birthday or some other ^{SPECIAL} date? Of course not, and neither should our love in return, ^{BE DEPENDENT ON A NATIONAL PROCLAMATION}

Mothers day is for the birds because how can you possibly suggest or even think that one day a year can begin to compensate for mothers and their love. Of course this brings to mind the fact that there are some mothers who are not worthy of being remembered on mothers days. I hesitate to make this ^{THESE ARE MOTHERS & THEN THERE ARE MOTHERS} statement because I feel that almost anyone still has a chance if they will mend their ways. But unfortunately there are some mothers who couldn't care less about their children and family. You know of them and so do I. They are ^{EVER} an increasing breed. Nothing burns me up more than to hear or read of children perishing in a fire while their mother was sitting in a bar. Or children being found that have not been fed or clothed for sometime ^{WHILE} and the mother is out carousing or having a good time. These are not mothers to me. In fact I don't think we could even classify them as animals because of their cruelty. These are mothers that we are to honor and remember on mothers day? I say emphatically no. To be a mother that is to be loved and to be remembered requires a woman to behave like a true mother.

Perhaps our scripture this morning may have seemed not quite as appropriate as it should be. But we must understand a few things before we can judge it as such. The old Testament lesson is probably familiar to most of us. However we may feel about the story of creation is immaterial at this point. ~~WHATEVER~~ Whether we believe that every word found in the Bible is literally true,

or if we believe as many people do that stories such as the creation story are merely someone's interpretation of how God created the earth and everything else doesn't really matter. What does matter is that this scripture points up a very important fact and that is that man and woman have a definite responsibility not only to God but to each other.

The New Testament lesson has much more to give to us in the way of information. The Scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus to ask Him why the disciples did not observe the ritual of cleanliness. This entire matter of clean and unclean was not so much a matter of hygiene as it was a matter of ceremony. Uncleaness was contracted by touching certain persons or eating certain things. For instance a woman was unclean for a certain time after she had a child. Every dead body was unclean and every Gentile was unclean. This uncleaness went to fantastic extremes which we will not go into at this time. But after this question by the Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus answers them with an example of the observance of a ceremonial law which could very well become an actual contradiction of the Law of God instead of obedience to this Law. This concerned the taking of oaths in certain instances. A strange word is used in this scripture and it is the word Corban. This word has two meanings. One of them is, "That which is offered or dedicated to God." As an example suppose that a man had a mother or father who were in poverty and need. And suppose that this parent came to him for help. This man could avoid helping his parents by dedicating his money and all of his property to God and the Temple. This was called Corban. God offered and God dedicated. He could then say to his mother or father, "I'm sorry I can't do anything for you or give you anything because all I have is dedicated to God." So you see a Scribal regulation can be used to wipe out one of the Ten Commandments. But this word Corban was also used as an oath. A man may say to his mother or father, "Corban, if anything I have will ever be used to help you." But suppose this man had a twinge of conscience and he regretted his action and wanted to change his mind. Normally anyone would say that he saw the light and he did the right thing by repenting and wanting to help his parents. But the Scribe

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said no. He would say, "Our law says that no oath can ever be broken." He would quote from the 30th chapter of Numbers which state, "If a man makes avow to Yahweh or takes a formal pledge under oath, he must not break his word: whatever he promises by word of mouth he must do." The Scribe would argue, "You took an oath and you cannot break it for any reason." In other words if a man made an oath in a fit of temper or rage, he could not take it back and do otherwise. This is what Jesus was trying to correct. He tried to show these Scribes and Pharisees that by their very rules and regulations they were compelling a man to dishonor his mother or his father. A Rabbi named Eliezer said, "The door is opened for a man on account of his father and mother." He meant that if a man had foolishly made an oath against his parents the door was open so that he could change his mind. He could overcome the sworn oath and would not be held to it.

But you see the object lesson of this story applies to us today. We still have the Scribes and Pharisees with us. These people are not making oaths against their parents but they are parading their piety so all men can see. They observe mothers day faithfully every year and forget their mother the remainder of the year. They buy her the biggest bouquet that can be had, when what she needs is a little companionship the rest of the year. They show their love to their mother on this one day and ignore her the rest of the days. This is why I say mothers day is for the birds. If we really love our mothers we do not need someone to place a certain date on the calendar to remind us of it.

Then there is the other side of the coin where if some of these mothers would not receive a card and flowers and candy and all the trimmings, why this would be horrible. I'm sure all of us know some mothers of this type. To me this again is a disgrace to motherhood. God in His infinite wisdom created a special creature beside man and this creature is called woman. Which reminds me of the story of two friends who hadn't seen each other in fifteen years or so. They happened to meet on the street and began reminiscing. They talked about their work and families, and the one fellow asked about the other fellows wife. He told him she was fine. Then he asked say, tell me is she as pretty as she used to be? Yes she is he said, but it takes her quite a bit longer. This is what God created

Salem Lamartine 11:00 5/12/68

*Processional Hymn 12-
*Solemn Declaration *father, son, spirit*
*Call to Worship Page 171
*Confession of Sin Page 8
*Assurance of Pardon Page 10
Scripture Reading Genesis 2: 18 to 24
~~Matthew 15: 1 to 9~~
Mark 7 - 1 - 13
* Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed Page 11
Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Special offering envelopes in back of
Church for Greenville Home. This is
for mothers day. Anyone wanting to
give please take one.

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 444
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 471
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

St. John Emlenton 9:30 5/12/68

*Processional Hymn
*Solemn Declaration *father, son, spirit*
*Call to Worship Page 171
*Confession of Sin Page 8
*Assurance of Pardon Page 10
Responsive Reading Sel. 61 Page 608
Hymn 475
Scripture Reading Genesis 2: 18 to 24
~~Matthew 15: 1 to 9~~
Mark 7 - 1 - 13
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed *PAGE 11*
*Pastoral Prayer & Response
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer.
*Hymn 444
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 445
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Salem Announcements

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Special envelopes on back table for

the old folks home in Greenville.

Anyone wishing to contribute please avail
yourselves of the envelopes.

Flower Committee

Telephone Numbers

46822

JUNE 2ND 7:30 REV. HIAK

~~LADIES~~ LADIES AID WILL
SEW. TUES. NITE.

THURS THEY WILL CLEAN CHURCH

FOOTBALL FIELD, 6:30.

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